THE INTERIOR OF THE COLLINSES' home was completely renovated, with antiques and other fancy furnishings adding to the stately effect the home renovation created.

They built their dream home

The home of Kevin and Jan Collins near Evergreen is a shining example of successful home improvement.

With the help of their families, the Collinses took a 60-year-old house, entirely stripped the inside, and completely renovated the structure. The result: a stately country home high on a hill overlooking Route 460 just east of Evergreen.

The home, which was built by Newell Stoner Smith for William Harrison Smith shortly after the first world war, belonged to a number of persons before being purchased by the late Zack Cheatham, Jan's grandfather.

Kevin and Jan began renovations on the house in February of 1981. The entire interior of the house was stripped, leaving nothing but the hull of the building. Kevin notes that the original house was constructed or rough cut lumber.

With the help of several local contractors, the Collinses and their families began to renovate the house. They installed new studs, ceilings, insulation, electrical and plumbing work, floors, and even imported a fancy winding staircase.

They removed a porch at the back of the house and tore down and old building behind the house. Then they put on a new roof and new aluminum siding.

With the home's interior structure nearly complete, the next step was to lay down the carpet, paint the interior, and install light fixtures, and other finishing touches.

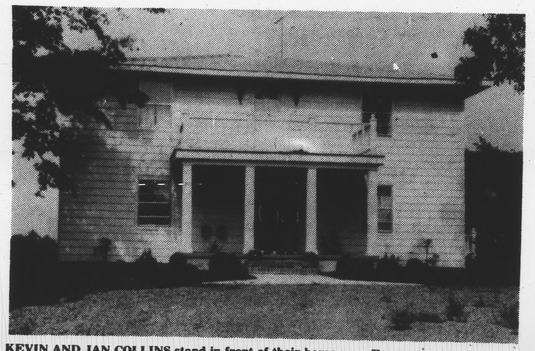
Kevin and Jan then began to furnish the home with a variety of beautiful antiques and other furnishings.

The entire project, except for a few minor details, was complete and the young couple moved in on Sept. 20. The driveway leading to Route 460 was graveled soon thereafter, and some landscaping work is still being done.

The result of the Collinses' and their families' work is a 10-room dream home built to the couple's specifications. Included in the ten rooms are two baths, a study, a living room, den, kitchen, and four bedrooms. Kevin notes that there is no central air conditioning in the home, but a specially designed venting system utilizing a roof fan keeps the home cool on hot days.

Kevin notes that the entire project cost considerably less than what it would have cost to have the same home built from scratch.

And, the couple and their families have the satisfaction of a home which is truly "custom designed."



KEVIN AND JAN COLLINS stand in front of their home near Evergreen. They took a 60-year-old house, stripped the inside, and completely renovated the home in and out.

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Use less energy, save more money by improving poorly insulated homes

Most of us live in houses which were built at a time when nobody worried about the cost and supply of oil, gas or electricity. Today, we are learning from our soaring heating bills that our homes are ill-protected against heat loss. However, by adding more insulation where there is none or too little and by installing weatherstripping and storm windows, we can cut heat loss, use less fuel and save money.

Insulation comes in various widths and thicknesses and may have a vapor barrier on one side. The purpose of the vapor barrier is to prevent the passage of water vapor from heated areas into the space between the walls where it could damage the insulation. The vapor barrier should always face the warmer side of a wall, floor or ceiling.

When you go to a lumber yard or home center to buy insulation, don't judge it by thickness alone. Look for the letter "R" followed by a number printed on the insulation. "R" stands for resistence to heat flow. For walls you need R-11 (about 4 inches), for ceilings and floors you need R-19 (about 6 inches). If you don't see R numbers printed on the vapor barrier, don't buy the insulation. Bear in mind that 8-inch insulation marked R-19 has no greater insulation value than six inches marked with the same R number.

Insulating is really very simple. All you need is the proper insulation and a good stapler like Arrow's T-50 or HT 50A Hammer Tacker. Load your gun with staples that have 3/8" legs. These have ample penetration in the softwood studs and excellent holding power. Insulation with vapor barriers usually has flanges at the edges for easy stapling.

Press the insulation in between the studs and staple the flange on one side to the front of the adjacent stud; repeat with the flange on the other side. The entire cavity between studs should be filled with insulation from top to bottom without any gaps or breaks. The staples should be driven every six inches. Note: if you use insulation with an aluminum foil vapor barrier, the flanges on both sides must be stapled to the SIDES of the studs.

If you use insulation without a vapor barrier, place it between the studs in the usual way, then cover the entire wall with sheets of clear polyethelene plastic as a vapor barrier. If possible, fold the sheet so you are stapling through a double thickness. Staples should be inserted every 8 inches along the front end of each stud.

It is very important to insulate attic floors, cellar ceilings and the walls of unfinished rooms. In these cases, to have the vapor barrier facing the warmer adjacent areas, the barrier and its flanges will be out of reach on the inside of the cavity. Support this insulation with chicken wire stapled to the studs.

Weatherstripping - Controls heat loss through windows and doors.

Windows and doors represent the biggest sources of heat loss in your house if they are not properly sealed. Weatherstripping is available in a wide variety of forms, but usually, the least expensive is the felt type with burlap backing. Place the stripping with its edge firmly against the frame of the window sash and staple it about every four inches. Doors should be weatherstripped on the outside. Install the stripping on the door stops, the wood strips on the sides and top against which the door closes. Stapling is the same as for windows.

Storm Windows - Additional protection.

You can make excellent temporary storm windows by covering them with clear plastic. Use 6-mil polyethelene and staple it around the outside of the window. Double the plastic at the edges and drive the staples against the outer edge of the trim where they won't be noticed.

These easy-to-do measures will make your home far more energy-efficient. You'll save significant amounts not only on your winter heating bills, but on summer air conditioning bills too. Your investment in materials will soon be paid back again and again.

Elderly should beware of cold in winter

[Continued from page 4]

thermometer whose scale goes below the usual low point of 94 degrees Fahrenheit.

Dr. Robert N. Butler, Director of the National Institute on Aging, in testimony before the U. S. Senate Committee on Aging, stated, "A shortage of energy to maintain proper indoor temperatures, if combined with reduced ability of older persons to compensate for temperature changes, can have devastating effects on the aged."

Excessive heat can also create problems. There is a condition analagous to hypothermia known as hyperthermia - heat stroke.

Because of the stresses imposed on the vulnerable elderly by heat and humidity, the informed and cautious energy managers in homes, hospitals, convalescent and nursing homes, should maintain temperature and humidity at comfortable levels during the summer. With little or no additonal expenditure of energy, this can be achieved.

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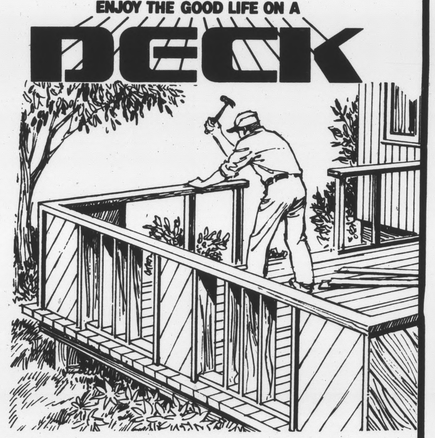

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